PLAYGROUND FOR NEGROES

At last it may be that Montgomery is to provide a recreation park for the use of Negroes. One reason for the long delay in giving reality to this worthy hope, as we understand it, has been the practical difficulty in obtaining a suitable, adequate site. The Advertiser has long been anxious to see some of the special federal funds used for this worthy purpose while these funds were yet available. Public officials have been sympathetic to the idea and our leading Negro citizens have encouraged a playground for their people brought into being. Some of us had begun to despair of the prospects, but now we are assured that the city is negotiating with the City of St. Jude, a Catholic church for Negroes for 10 acres of land near the church. The city will lease the land for 25 years at the nominal cost of a dollar while WPA will spend $60,000 in the development of the playground. Apparently negotiations will be successfully concluded soon.

Thus Montgomery tends to become more and more civilized. We are glad that at last the old town has seen its duty to a voiceless minority and taken proper action to discharge that duty. In view of the recreational facilities available to whites it would be indefensible for Montgomery to go longer without making some provision for the pleasure and benefit of our Negro population.

Since the establishment of WPA and PWA Montgomery has done a good deal to improve and increase the school plants for the use of Negroes. It has provided for one slum clearance project in their behalf. It has improved sanitary conditions, streets and sidewalks—but until now it had seemed hopeless for the Negroes to expect decent playground facilities in the capital of Alabama. The Advertiser frankly confesses that it had begun to feel a little ashamed of the community because it had not done this one salient thing in justice to itself. The Advertiser is extremely gratified to learn that at last a suitable playground for Negro children seems probable.

The recreation park for Negroes will be under supervision. Their games will be planned for them, their deportment will be controlled, as is the deportment of whites in other parks.

At this point The Advertiser ventures to say that in its judgment when the park is completed and the children are given the green light a Negro supervisor should be appointed. When Negroes are healthy and in a mood to play they are happy, but never so happy as when alone, unobserved and unbossed by white people. A competent, sympathetic playground supervisor can be found among the Negroes, and The Advertiser urges that a member of that race be appointed. Ordinary respect for the privacy of personality makes this principle mandatory upon those of us who take so much pride in our mastery of government and money.

250 Finish Course Conducted Here In Training Institute

The Recreation Training Institute graduated more than 170 Birmingham persons at exercises presided over by Dr. John E. Bryan, superintendent of Jefferson County schools at Birmingham - Southern College Wednesday night.

At the same time, 80 Negro recreational workers were awarded certificates in a program at Slossfield Center with Dr. Ernest T. Attwell, field adviser for the national association, as speaker.

The Birmingham institute, Frank A. Staples, director, told the audience at Birmingham-Southern, was one of the largest ever sponsored by the National Recreation Association. It was held under auspices of the Jefferson County coordinating council of social forces, Birmingham Park and Recreation Board, and the Community Chest, with the cooperation of Birmingham-Southern College.

After the formal exercises on the Hilltop, Miss Ethel M. Bowers, instructor of social recreation, conducted a social recreation hour.

Miles Memorial College allowed credits for those students who attended the course and were graduated at the Slossfield program. Guests at these exercises were W. D. Moore, president of American Cast Iron Pipe Company; Henry J. Noble, works superintendent, American Cast Iron Pipe Company; W. L. McAlpine and Miss Agnes Coughlin, of the Park and Recreation Board; the Rev. W. L. Cash, C L. Wright and Venice T. Spraggs state director of Negro affairs.

Beverly's Name Urged For Negro Playground

The City Commission has received a petition signed by a number of negro citizens and organizations of the community asking that the new park and playground be named in honor of John William Beverly, who was the first negro teacher and president of State Teachers' College.

It is proposed to provide a 10-acre park and playground on the "City of St. Jude" property off Fairview Avenue. The property, however has not yet been acquired but city officials are confident of being able to obtain a long-term lease on the land provided it is used as a recreation center for negroes.

Prof. Beverly, who died in 1924 was assistant to Prof. William B Paterson, founder of State Teachers College, for some 25 years. He was president of the institution for about five years. His memory has been honored by the naming of the new science building at the college for him.

"His devotion to the interest of student development as teacher and president of the college would seem to make his name quite appropriate to be associated with this first city park and playground to be made available for the negro citizens and negro children of Montgomery," the petitioners stated.

Birmingham Ala. Age-Herald
February 1, 1940

EXERCISES HELD AT SLOSSFIELD

80 Recreational Workers Get Certificates Of Training

Eighty Negro recreational workers were awarded certificates Thursday night at Slossfield Center, which indicated they had attended the Recreation Training Institute Jan. 4-31.

The courses were conducted under the auspices of the National Recreation Association and the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board. Miles Memorial College allowed credits for those students who attended the course.

Speaker at the final meeting was Dr. Ernest T. Attwell, field advisor for the national association.

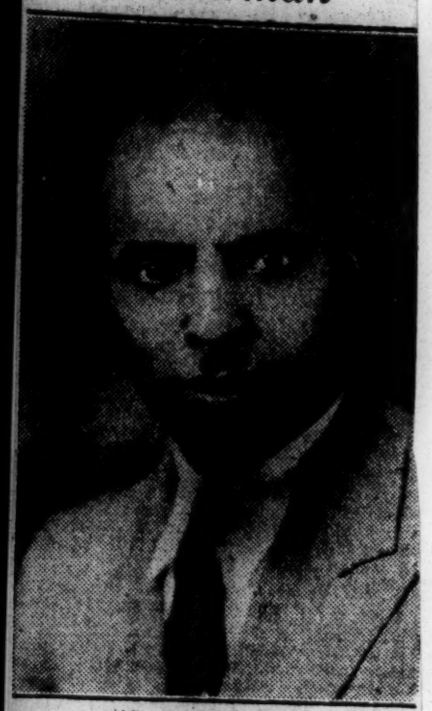
Guests at the exercises were W. D. Moore, president of American Cast Iron Pipe Company; Henry J. Noble, works superintendent, American Cast Iron Pipe Company; W. L. McAlpine and Miss Agnes Coughlin, of the Park and Recreation Board; the Rev. W. L. Cash, C. L. Wright and Venice T. Spraggs, state director of Negro affairs.

Negro Park Project Okehed By President

Mayor Gunter was in receipt yesterday of a telegram from Senator John H. Bankhead announcing presidential approval of the $29,200 project for a negro park off Fairview Avenue near the City of St. Jude's Catholic Mission. The recreational program had been planned by the city for nearly a year.

The park embracing some 10 acres of land will be named in honor of John William Beverly, local negro educator who died several years ago. Prof. Beverly was the second president of State Teachers College.

Chairman



G. J. PHILLIPS

Phillips To Head Park Committee

Dr. Walter B. Jones, director of conservation and representative of the State in park matters, recently appointed G. J. Phillips, field representative of Tuskegee Institute, State chairman of a campaign committee which will direct its efforts towards securing suitable areas for parks and recreation centers for colored people in Alabama.

At present there is a total lack of State parks and recreation centers for Alabama's large negro population. The CCC is interested in this project, as is the State of Alabama.

Phillips has done preliminary work on plans which when put into execution, will insure sufficient funds for the purchase of several areas at various points in Alabama. These areas will be developed for swimming, boating, fishing, games, community centers and overnight cabins.

After suitable areas have been acquired the State, through its director of conservation, pledges its full support in the development of these areas for parks and agencies will cooperate with the State in this development.

National Park Area Opened

WASHINGTON, June 20. (ANP) —The first colored recreational area opened for Negroes under the Department of Agriculture in the national forest area began its season on June 15, when the Green Pastures area in the Jefferson National forest down in Virginia, permits swimming under the supervision of qualified life guards. Green Pastures has been developed exclusively for the use of colored people.

Most of these areas have been used by the public for picnicking, and in some instances for camping, since early in May, but the necessity for detailing life guards the the beaches during the summer season limited the use of the water facilities to the warmer periods of the season.

1570 Underpriviliged Children Enjoy Free Boatride on S.S. Robert E. Lee

Through the benevolence of F. P. Noel, president of the Robert E. Lee Steamboat Corporation, 1,570 children and their parents participated in a boat trip down the Potomac River on Tuesday afternoon.

All plans and arrangements, including the issuing of admission cards to twenty-two agencies after establishing quotas, we well as soliciting ice-cream, sandwiches, soft-drinks, cookies and chocolate milk were completed by the Northwest Settlement House, which acted as hostess.

The Settlement House was assisted in the arrangements for the ride by the following persons: Mrs. Marian Burke, contact agent, Kiwanis Club; John R. Pinkett, Jr., solicitation of donations and transportation; William S. Harps, arrangements for and distribution of tickets to agencies; Mrs. Esther Sweeney, in charge of arrangements for the medical unit.

Organizations Contributing

The following organizations cooperated in making the excursion a success by their contributions:

Chestnut Farms Dairy, Bill's Grill through William Smith, the Ice Cream Companies, Uline Ice Company, Peoples' Drug Stores, Briggs Packing Company, Kingan Packing Company, Kiwanis Club, Hamilton Printing Company, Dixie Janitor Supply Company, General Baking Company, American Red Cross, W. P. A. orchestra, John R. Pinkett, Inc., and the American Ice Company.

The workers from the Recreation Department, T. J. Anderson, assistant director, who were in charge of the children included:

Area 11A, D. A. Brown, area director; Robert Conway, Otis Troupe, Mrs. Vera Smith, parent, Russell Christian, and Mrs. J. Wallace, parent;

Area 11B, Joseph Cole, area director; Mrs. LaVerne Birch, on program committee, Mrs. Doris Barker, John Robinson, LaVert Armstrong, Miss Ambrosia McCallum, Miss Anna Brookins, on program committee, Miss Anna Briscoe, and Joseph Cole;

Area 12, Walter Brooks, director; Mrs. M. E. Ellis, Horace Randolph, on program committee, Mrs. Violet McKinney, Mrs. Corrie Sisney, on program committee, and Mrs. Sarah T. Honesty;

Area 17, Milton C. Larry, director; Mrs. Lillian Simmons, Mrs. Antoinette T. Mills, Joseph Jackson, Mrs. Mary Dickerson, and Miss Noretezel McRae.

Area 19, W. E. Temple, Jr., director; Francis Henry, Miss Dorothy Boston, and W. E. Temple, Jr.;

Area 24, Sylvester Hall, director; Mrs. Lelia S. Thomas;

Area 25, James P. White, director; Mrs. Florence Matthews.

The program committee consisted of: Mrs. LaVern Birch, Miss Anna Brookins, Area 11B; Horace Randolph, Mrs. Corrie Sisney, Area 12, and Mrs. Sarah T. Honesty, Area 12.

Hosts on Cruise

Those who acted as hosts for the underprivileged kiddies were:

Mesdames Gabrielle Pelham, Elsie A. Wiggins, Gladys E. Duncan, Alma S. Hastie, P. B. Cox, L. S. Thomas, J. L. S. Holloman, T. A. Rivers, Vivian T. Turner, Velma G. Williams, Mildred Perkins, Benjamin A. Gray, Helen Jordan, G. F. C. Hayes, M. E. Henson;

Mesdames Marjorie M. Lawson, Willie B. Dixon, Prince Brooks, Jr., Georgia J. Gordon, Lillian W. Jordan, Cleo M. Key, M. B. Cave, Julia West Hamilton;

Misses Phyllis E. Reynolds, Virginia B. Quivers, Ruth E. McLeod, Harriet Hinnant, M. F. Harvey, Bernadette Smith; Officers Hallman and Valentine, Col. West Hamilton, E. W. Baker, and Edward F. Merritt.

Participating Agencies

Agencies receiving admission cards and participating in the ride included:

Department of Recreation, Public Assistance Division, Social Service Division of the Juvenile Court, Phillips Court, Southwest Community House, Southeast Settlement House, Twelfth Street YMCA, Wheatley YWCA, Police Boys' Club No. 2, Handicapped Children of D. C. Schools, Kiwanis Club; Children's Protective Association, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Georgetown group of Ebenezer AME Church, Happy Hour group of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Northwest Settlement House, Snow's Court Playground, Lincoln Temple Center, Child Welfare Division, Family Welfare Division, and the Crippled Children of W. P. A.

Leaders sent by guest agencies to assist in the supervision and entertainment of the children included:

Southwest House: James Gray, James Boggerson, Audrey Russell, Gertrude Brown, Miss Lillie M. Barr, girls' worker, and Miss Lillian Dotson, nursery teacher;

Southeast House: Misses Mae C. Hawes, Rachel Bassette, C. J. Woolfolk; Alston Jones, Frederick Smith, Charles Campbell, Melvin Ezelle, Bishop Berfield, Stevens Wiggins, and Mrs. L. M. Richmond;

The YMCA: Edward Sparrow, Isabel Gaskins, Mary E. Chapman, Phoebe Broughton, Gladys Hammond, Victor Jones, Clarence Beverly, and Leroy C. Dillard;

The YWCA: Mrs. Gheretain Wilson; Misses Marian Rowlin, Wynema Overton, Jacqueline Whitt, Althea Alexander;

Snow's Court: Mesdames C. Sisney, Rosetta B. Dutch, Alice Marshall, Annie Mongo, Marie Washington, Beulah Towles, Sadie Hankerson, Pearl Hughes, Mildred McIlwain; Catherine Witherspoon, Joseph Thomas, James Harris, Flex Hooks, James Lomax, Carlton Watts, and James Winfield.

The executive board of the Northwest Settlement House, 515 M Street, Northwest, host, includes:

Judge Fay L. Bentley, Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, Mrs. M. D. Butler, Miss Valarie Chase, James A. Cobb, Miss Catherine Thomas, Mrs. Madeline W. Kirkland, Mrs. I. A. Letcher, Capt. Rhoda Milliken, Mrs. William A. Slade, the Rev. E. C. Smith, Col. E. W. Sturdevant, Mrs. Mary F. Thompson, Dr. E. C. Wiggins, Mrs. Daniel Shoemaker, and Phillip M. Brown.

The officers are: Mrs. Edna W. Payton, president; E. S. Jenkyns, secretary; the Rev. A. F. Elmes, vice-president; George E. C. Hayes, treasurer; Miss Catherine Thomas, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Flaxie H. Pinkett, director.

The members of the medical unit are: physicians—Drs. E. L. Davis, E. B. Carrington, and W. C. Cursey; nurses—Mrs. L. Sweeting, Miss L. Halley, Mrs. P. Cyrus, and Mrs. M. F. Fearing; student nurses—Misses Hardwick, I. Mitchell, Hart, Scott, and Wardell.

St. Petersburg Fla. Times
March 5, 1940

Jordan Park Acceptance Date Is Set

March 12 Fixed for Transfer of Project

Tentative date for acceptance by the housing authority of the $1,065,000 Jordan park negro housing project from I. E. Millstone Construction company, general contractor, has been set for March 12, it was announced yesterday.

Construction of the 242 units comprising the project was started by the St. Louis firm last April after it had made a low bid of $658,900 for the work. The authority previously had acquired a 26-acre plot on the south side on which the project is located.

On the date set for acceptance, the housing authority will receive bids for various types of insurance covering the buildings.

The principal policy will be issued in the amount of $600,500 to cover the units in case of fire. Supplemental policies will be sought for windstorms of all types, casualty, explosions and riot.

Workmen's compensation insurance will be obtained to cover an executive director (part-time), secretary-bookkeeper, management aide, rental clerk, maintenance mechanic, maintenance laborer and unskilled laborer.

Other policies on which proposals will be made will cover burglaries to the amount of $6,637; robberies on premises for $5,000; robbery off premises, $2,000.

Bids also will include fidelity bonds covering the executive director, secretary - bookkeeper, management aide, and rental clerk.

All insurance carried on the project since construction was started was issued to the Millstone Construction company. This will expire March 16. Bids to be received by housing authority are conditional that all policies be in force on the expiration date of the contractor's policies.

Anniston, Ala Star
May 12, 1940

Jacksonville Gets Negro Play Center

JACKSONVILLE, Ala., May 11.—The Needmore colored recreation center was formally opened here Friday afternoon with a baseball game between colored teams from Anniston and Jacksonville. Approximately 250 registered for the summer play activities at this center.

During the afternoon competition was held in ping pong, checkers, horse shoes, and volley ball for the visitors. Allen Patterson and William Paden will supervise the recreational activities at Needmore.

Patterson and Paden expressed the gratitude of the Needmore residents to R. R. Mathews, chairman of the Jacksonville park board, for his diligent work in helping to get the project completed.

Tampa, Fla Tribune
June 12, 1940

Tampa Playgrounds

One of the best community services Tampa's city government performs is the summer play program directed by the Board of Public Recreation. It is a desirable and instructive program which affects the interest and behaviour of thousands of Tampa youngsters throughout the entire city.

This week sees the opening of 20 municipal playgrounds, 15 for white and five for negro youngsters. A well-rounded program of sports, contests and games, dancing, handicraft projects, swimming, hikes and picnics has been planned. The children will be occupied throughout the summer months.

Tampans should appreciate this program. It is extensive and balanced for children of all ages. Equally important, it is properly supervised and away from city streets with serious traffic hazards.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
June 9, 1940

15 PLAYGROUNDS TO BE OPENED IN CITY TOMORROW

Summer Programs To Be Held for Youngsters

Fifteen white municipal playgrounds and five negro areas will open their summer play programs tomorrow morning, under supervision of the board of public recreation.

The program will consist of major sports including softball, baseball, kick baseball and volleyball for all age classifications, and minor sports including paddle tennis, badminton, horseshoes, table tennis, tennis and shuffleboard.

Contest and Events

Contests and events also have been planned, including checkers, Chinese checkers, jump rope, hop scotch, O'Leary, jackstones, pet shows, doll shows, and special parties. Low organization games will be conducted for boys and girls of all ages, and singing games and story telling will be provided for the younger boys and girls.

A program of folk dancing and handicraft has been arranged for boys and girls of all ages. Miss Ruth Ann Waller, a recent graduate of Furman university, will have charge of folk dancing, visiting each area once a week, and Miss Martha Monroe, long experienced in physical education here, will visit each playground twice a week, teaching folk dancing, tap dancing and the fundamental steps in social dancing.

The handicraft program will include basketry, wood carving, soap carving, needlework, knitting, model airplanes, boats, and the making of other articles.

Swimming Program

An extensive swimming program has been planned for all the playgrounds, parties will be organized weekly to take participants to Cuscaden park, where instruction will be given in swimming and life saving.

Hikes and picnics also will be held with all-day excursions to the state park and elsewhere.

The first week's program will start tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, and will continue as an organization week. A membership drive in the form of a contest will be held at each playground, to continue for three weeks, when the losing team will give a party for the winners.

Columbus, Ga Enquirer-Sun
August 25, 1940

Negro Youth Day Program Thursday

Negro Youth Day celebration next Thursday will dedicate the Booker T. Washington playground, the program being announced Saturday by A. T. Jackson, housing manager, who will be master of ceremonies.

A flag-raising pageant and parade will take place from 9:30 to 11 o'clock. Exercises to include a number of short addresses will begin at 11:15, as follows:

Song, Community Singers; invocation, Rev. J. J. Lewis; addresses by Chairman Theo J. McGee of Housing Authority, Director Brown Nicholson, Chaplain Louis J. Beasley of Fort Benning, Miss Edwina Wood, executive director of city playgrounds, and Nelson Shipp of Ledger-Enquirer papers.

The Community Singers will sing the negro national anthem and "God Bless America." Rev. T. W. Smith will give benediction.

Nurses' Home Named After Negro Doctor

OCT 5 1940

AUGUSTA, Ga. (ANP)—At a recent meeting of the City council, they adopted the name "George N. Stoney dormitory," for the new building on the University Hospital grounds, for a home for Negro nurses in training there.

This was done upon recommendation of the board of trustees of the hospital, in honor of the late Dr. George N. Stoney, a prominent physician of Augusta for years, also a national figure in the field of medicine.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City
Okla.

He is the only Negro who has ever practiced in the University Hospital. Negro patients are entered and turned over to a white staff of physicians.

The dormitory is a large two-story brick building, modern in structure and equipment.

Negro Campers Need Assistance

Many Who Want to Go on Outing Haven't Cost

Telegraph.
6/23/40
Macon, Ga.

Sponsors of a camp period for Macon young Negroes appealed yesterday for funds to set up scholarships for needy boys and girls.

The camp will be held July 8 to Aug. 3 at Beacon Woodland site in section known as Eastview.

Frank Hutchings, camp treasurer, said many worthy young people cannot pay the camp fees of 50 cents per day, $1.75 per week or $3 for two weeks. Boys and girls 9 to 17 years old are eligible to attend. Individuals or groups desiring to help can send their contributions to Hutchings at 518 New street.

The recreation division of the Work Projects Administration and the city recreation department cooperate in offering the camp period. The city allows use of the land without charge, and more than 50 would-be campers already are registered.

Brunswick, Ga., News
July 19, 1940

MODERN PLAYGROUND FOR LOCAL NEGROES

MANY FINE IMPROVEMENTS MADE AT OLD SELDEN INSTITUTE PARK SITE.

On an ideal site, shaded by large oaks, with a salt water creek as the western boundary, Brunswick's colored population now have a recreational center of which they should well feel proud. It has been made possible by the county commissioners, local industrial plants and the negroes themselves, who have contributed funds and a great deal of time to the development of the amusement park.

The site is that of the old Selden Institute, purchased by the county several years ago with a view of providing a place of amusement for the better class negroes of the city, and they have manifested a great interest in it. Development work was slow at first, a modern fresh water swimming pool having been provided, together with a casino, used for dancing and picnics, and a large brick building converted into an auditorium where religious services and various meetings are held.

But there was no playground equipment, no softball field or tennis courts, and, led by a committee of leading negro business men, a movement was started some time ago to make of the new playground a modern place, with all kinds of playground equipment. The county cooperated one hundred per cent, the negroes themselves raised $250 in cash, while the Brunswick Pulp and Paper Company, the Hercules Powder Company and the Georgia Veneer and Package Company evinced much interest in the project and have donated cash as well as the time of employes, who have reported to the park after working hours to assist in the construction work.

Today, work is being completed on a softball field and a tennis court, work will shortly start on a football gridiron and a baseball field, all buildings have been renovated and placed in first class condition, an additional well for the swimming pool supplies all the water desired, and a test shows it to be one hundred per cent pure, the finest playground equipment possible has been installed in a large oak grove, where dozens of children gather daily, the casino has been remodeled, the grounds have been cleared and many other improvements made and the work is not yet completed.

The county some time ago named an advisory board of local negro leaders to assist in the development and operation of the park, and members of this committee have devoted considerable time to the project and take great pride in it. They confer as to improvements and make reports to the commission.

A Red Cross swimming instructor has been secured and is now teaching a class of 50; a PWA playground director will be named shortly, it is understood, and will be permanently assigned to the park, and many other improvements and developments are anticipated.

The park is located within the city limits, three miles from the center of the city; a paved road goes to the site, and it is planned to build a shell road through the park; the entire site has been enclosed with a wire fence and throughout the park rustic benches have been installed.

It is a real place for the entertainment and amusement of Brunswick negroes, and they are using it to a great extent.

PARKS SHOW SUCCESS FOR YEAR OF 1939

Chicago's parks have come a long way in the five and one-half years since Park consolidation, according to President R. J. Dunham of the Park District, in discussing today the events of 1939.

"The payless pay-days, defaulted bonds and heavy load of unpaid current bills carried over from the superseded park districts are all things of the past now," said Mr. Dunham. "Our employees always receive their paychecks promptly. Since 1936 when all inherited park bonds were refinanced, funds to meet every interest payment have been waiting in the bank before the due date. For many years we have been taking advantage of every cash discount item in paying current bills. As a consequence the Park District enjoys as good a credit standing with vendors as most private corporations in the city.

"During 1939 $6,619,000 in bonded indebtedness has been retired, thus maintaining the average funded debt retirement of between five and six millions of dollars per year that has continued regularly since Park consolidation. As we approach the threshold of the new year there is considerable comfort in the thought that the total park debt including every kind of obligation, will have been cut from over $127,000,000 to approximately $95,500,000 since Mayor Edward J. Kelly appointed the first Board of Park Commissioners with city-wide functions in May of 1934. This represents a gross debt reduction of at least $31,500,000 or nearly 25 per cent. These figures may change somewhat when the year closes and our accounts are finally closed.

"In our program to improve and beautify every available acre of park lands, create safe and convenient conditions on the boulevards for pedestrians as well as motorists, and extend beneficial recreation service to every part of the city and every class of resident, 1939 compares very favorably in progress with the preceding years.

"With the financial aid of the Federal Public Works Administration, the Monroe Street Viaduct was completed, a new north end for Soldier Field was finished, including a modern central headquarters administration building, and the spacious North Avenue Bathing Beach and mammoth beach house has been carried to a point where its use by the public next summer is assured. Likewise, an entirely new and modern water system in Lincoln Park, with a new pumping station at Wilson Avenue, now completely replaces the dilapidated and unsanitary system that served its purpose many years ago.

"The Federal Works Progress Administration, as in all the recent years, has continued to be a Godsend in our efforts to rehabilitate and improve park facilities. Every side of the city has been benefited, from some of our smallest to some of our largest parks, including much of the lake front area. The major program to provide the far south steel mill district with adequate facilities at Calumet Park has gone on steadily. So likewise has the improvement of Marquette Park. The fieldhouses at Palmer and Bessemer Parks and Russell Square, also on the South Side, have been completely renovated and modernized, with additional space provided for public use. Garfield Park, on the West Side, where major alterations were completed, will blossom out in full beauty this Spring. The fieldhouse at Altgeld Park, another West Side center, has been rehabilitated and greatly improved. On the Northwest Side the fieldhouses at Kelvyn, Independence, River, and Green Briar Parks, have been altered and modernized to provide more and better community use. Scores of other North and Northwest Side parks—too many to list here—also show the benefits of our WPA operations in rehabilitated buildings, replacement of worn-out-lawns, shrubs, and trees, installation of many new flower beds, and other physical betterments. In beautifying landscaped areas throughout the Park system we have planted over 17,900 trees, and more than 90,070 shrubs, perennials, and vines with WPA forces directed by Park supervisors.

"Next Spring the parks and boulevards of Chicago will literally glow with color when over one million tulips and other spring bulbs burst into bloom.

"So, 1939 will pass into history with a gratifying record of accomplishment for Chicago's Parks. That 1940 will reflect equally important progress is the earnest hope of the Commissioners and their entire staff of earnest and loyal employees.

White Minister Urge Bathing Facilities

Dispatch

NEW ORLEANS. — (By Leon Lewis for ANP)—"Christianity in America cannot maintain if we continue to allow race prejudice, discrimination and color bias to destroy the principles of our religious teachings and the followship and brotherhood of man," the Rev. R. W. Coleman, pastor of the First African Baptist church, here, told the Protestant Minister's union in their regular meeting last Monday. Rev. Coleman pleaded in behalf of the establishment of a beach and recreation facilities for Negroes of the city.

He said, "Although there are 180,000 Negro children, no facilities are available at the lake front for Negro bathing and Negroes are not allowed in public parks, and provision is made for ducks and geese. It is hard for us as ministers to teach our children Christianity under such circumstances."

Rev. Coleman's concluding statement to the white group drew sevorable comments and unanimous adoption of a resolution urging that the city administration provide adequate recreational facilities for Negroes in the city, especially a beach at Seabrook for Negro usage. This final statement was, "A democracy which is dedicated to the preservation of the values and rights of its populace, may in self protection utilize the educational processes for inculcating those almost unconscious feelings which bind men together in a comprehensive loyalty what ever may be their lesser differences or difficulties. If we preach and teach religious doctrines, why can't we practice it?

Copies of the resolution were sent to the Mayor of New Orleans, the city commission, the New Orleans Levy board and Gov. Samuel Jones. Rev. Coleman said this was a signal accomplishment on behalf of the clergy.

2 More Get Recreation Dept. Jobs

BALTIMORE

The appointment of Sheldon B. Hoskins and Miss Leila T. Gardner, of New York, as supervisors of recreation centers was announced by Harold S. Callowhill, this week.

Mr. Hoskins, who has had fourteen years' experience along these lines and who has specialized in arts, crafts, and dramatics, has been assigned to the center in the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Junior High School, McElderry and Caroline Streets.

Led Field of Eighteen

Of the eighteen applicants who took the examinations, last June, Mr. Hoskins was said to have had the highest average. His appointment became effective, Thursday, August 8.

Miss Gardner is expected to report for work, next Thursday. She is a graduate of Tuskegee Institute and was the health education secretary at the YWCA in Orange, N.J., where she succeeded Miss Inez Patterson. Miss Gardner has been assigned to the William Alexander School.

With these appointments, the roster of supervisors over the various centers has been completed, Mr. Callowhill stated.

Mrs. Virginia Hall Briscoe is in charge of the center at the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor School, Preston Street between Druid Hill and Pennsylvania Avenues, and Mrs. Hattie B. Smith, in charge of the center at the Harvey Johnson Junior High School, Hill Street near Sharp.

Woodville, Miss. Republican
September 21, 1940

PROPOSED NEGRO ORGANIZATION AND RECREATIONAL AREA

According to information received here, a preliminary survey is being made by the U. S. Forest Service of a proposed site on the Homochitto National Forest to cover a negro organization camp and recreational area. One similar area is to be selected and built in each state where the negro population is centered.

The Homochitto has been selected as the most logical location for such an area in this state. This is due to the abundance of fresh water that is found here. The most likely place in Franklin county, so far considered, is found on a branch approximately 6 miles southwest of the popular Clear Springs Recreational Area.

If located here, this will be the only area of this type in the state. It will provide facilities for such Mississippi negro organizations as the Boy Scouts, the YMCA and YWCA and will also provide recreation facilities for the general negro population of the section.—Franklin Advocate.

Brookhaven, Miss. Leader
December 6, 1940

NEGROES PURCHASE LOT FOR RECREATION BLDG.

The Lincoln County Negro Fa Association has purchased a 100x10 ft. lot in front of the new athletic field for the construction of a recreation building for the negroes of Lincoln County.

The building will be a 70x90 ft. structure of the shed type, according to A. A. Alerander, chairman of the finance committee. It will be used for county fairs, basketball games, farmers' meetings and the like.

PARK FOR NEGROES IN MISSISSIPPI

Cull 5-10-40

VICKSBURG, Miss. — Plans for a park for Negroes to be located on 400 acres here have been submitted to WPA officials in Washington. It is expected that construction will be started soon.

It is also planned that a second park of 150 acres be constructed at Clinton.

Three Playgrounds for Negroes to Open May 27

Three of the 26 playgrounds which will open Monday, May 27, will be operated for Negroes. These three are the Garrison playground, Fifth and Troost, the Paradeway playground, 15th and Paseo, and the Woodland playground, 27th and Woodland avenue.

Sponsored by the park department, the Board of Education and the WPA, these playgrounds will provide 12 weeks of recreational activities for both children and adults. Games and sports, arts and crafts, music, dramatics, nature study, folk and tap dancing.

Except Saturdays and Sundays, the playgrounds will be open from noon until dark. Training sessions for teachers will be held on Saturdays.

Probe Shows Parks Dept. Neglects Bedford Sector

Having launched its campaign for playgrounds and parks in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area, the Bedford-Stuyvesant Health and Playground Council has compiled data on the conditions surrounding the lack of playgrounds and their effect on the community life, health and reputation. The following data is herewith presented by The New York Age as a searing indictment against the indifference which has characterized the attitude of Park Department and other authorities on this question.

The Bedford-Stuyvesant section has the highest quality of children per acre, the highest percentage of juvenile delinquency, infant and general mortality, fines and street accident ratio.

Between 1934 and 1940 small parks and playgrounds in the city were increased from 119 to 450. About 79 of these t tal about 580 acres. These 450 areas were put up and constructed in the Borough of Brooklyn. Only two of these were built in the Bedford-Stuyvesant Negro area. Both total less than two acres.

There are over 20,000 school children in the area.

The report of the Park Commission to the Mayor, entitled "Six Years of Park Progress," conveyed the opinion that playgrounds have helped materially in reducing juvenile delinquency and crime. While arrests for juvenile delinquency dropped sharply from 1934 to 1937, the picture during the past two years has not been good.

Records show that the police force patrolling the Bedford-Stuyvesant area (13th Division) was increased between 1934 and 1939 by 18 per cent because of juvenile delinquency in the area. There was no increase in the police force in the city as a whole during that same period. Arrests of Negroes rose 73 per cent during the period of 1934 to 1940 while other arrests dropped 23 per cent in areas where playgrounds were constructed.

Contracts entered into by the Park Department and Works Progress Administration for the construction of playgrounds reveal that WPA funds spent for labor, material and equipment in eight playgrounds amounted to $1,222,907. One playground alone was allowed $466,000.

The 300 residents of the Zoo in Prospect Park are given sixteen playgrounds, 19 wading pools, nine monkey bars, six monkey swings and eight dumb-bells. 20,000 school children in the Bedford Stuyvesant district are allowed two small playgrounds, one wading pool and other scant equipment too trifling to mention.

A survey of the number of school children and corresponding small parks and playround acreage in the entire borough reveals that if these facilities were equitably distributed, each child would receive 81 square feet. Instead, we have the following conditions in the various sections of Brooklyn:

Area	Acreage per Child
Williamsburg	85.5 sq. feet
Brownsville	135 "
Fort Greene	36 "
Bushwick	22 "
Red Hook	99 "
Flatbush	46 "
Sunset Park	46 "
Bay Ridge	72 "
Low Flatbush	109 "
Bedford-Stuyvesant (White area)	63 "
Bedford-Stuyvesant (Negro area)	½ of one sq foot

Drowning of 2 Negro Boys Due to Lack of Swimming Pools

Daily Worker

Died Last Weekend in Harlem River Trying to Find Relief from Heat; Only One Swimming Pool for All of Harlem

8-3-40

New York.

By Angelo Herndon

Two deaths, due to the lack of adequate swimming pools, were recorded in Harlem last week-end.

A six-year-old, unindentified Negro boy's body was fished out of the Harlem River Saturday at 127th St. and First Ave. by a police launch. The unidentified youngster was drowned when he was caught suddenly by a swiftly moving current.

The second drowning, is a tragic ending to a long story of poverty and suffering. Ollie Felton, 13-year-old Negro boy of 268 W. 141st St., was sent on an errand last Sunday by his grandmother, Mrs. Cora Brown.

Three weeks ago, his mother was sent to a state psychopathic hospital for treatment after she was forced to quit housekeeping and leave her three children, Ollie, Celestine, and Mildred with their grandmother.

For payment of back rent owed by Mrs. Felton, the landlord took every piece of furniture, food, clothing she possessed and ordered her to get out of the house. This was more than a month ago. Shortly after, the dispirited and homeless mother was sent to Bellevue for "observation." From there she was ordered committed to the state psychopathic hospital.

Ollie decided to take a swim in the Harlem River at 155th St.

"If I had had the money," Mrs. Brown said, "I would have given it to him to swim in a city pool instead going in that dirty river."

There is only one city-owned swimming pool in Upper Harlem, located at 145th St. off Edgecombe Ave.

8-3-40

What's more, the parents of children who live on relief can ill afford to pay for their swimming when they do not have enough money to buy food.

Celestine 8, Mildred, 10, Mrs Brown and other relatives of the drowned boy, sat grimly in a corner of their ramshackle apartment. It seemed that the two little girls would cry their hearts out over the death of their brother whom they both had looked upon as their future breadwinner.

Ollie's death was but a grim reminder to the entire family of its tragic and impoverished condition. He was out of his misery, said Mrs. Brown, and "God only knows what will happen to the rest of us. I'm just trusting that the relief people will put the two little girls on my relief budget."

8-3-40

There are not enough parks for the kids to escape the heat. Asked why there isn't adequate policing of the river to keep the kids away, police at the East 126th St. Station where the death of the unidentified Negro boy is recorded, said that parents should show more responsibility for their children.

The police attendant at the 135th St. Station, upon learning that the Daily Worker was interested in the death of Ollie Felton, said "Oh, yes, we fished his body up alright. His family is penniless and starving, why don't your paper start a charity fund drive for them?"

No Money For Swimming Pool; Orphans Building Their Own

By TED POSTON
(Staff Correspondent)

NEW YORK, Aug. 15—The 200-odd youngsters up at the Riverdale Colored Orphan Asylum are firm believers in an old adage. The Lord (and others), they will tell you, will help those who help themselves. So, when the thermometer went to new heights last month and the puny little shower on the orphanage grounds couldn't accommodate a tenth of their number, the youngsters went to the administration.

"Why can't we have a swimming pool?" they asked.

"Same old story," said the administration. "We're sorry, but no money."

"Pay it no mind," the spokesman said," "We'll build it ourselves."

The administration was skeptical—until that afternoon. And then, to their surprise, more than two score enthusiastic youngsters showed up back of one of the boys' cottages with picks, shovels, a wheelbarrow, forks, rakes and everything they could get their hands on.

And right away, they went to work digging a hole twenty by forty feet. Several half ton stones showed up immediately, but that didn't stop the youngsters.

In fact, they were still at it this week and the proposed pool is gradually taking shape.

A Yonkers contractor heard about the project and promptly donated nine bags of cement, a truckload of sand and gravel. Another contractor would not be outdone; he sent his trucks around with a load.

An unidentified Bronx woman sent a contribution of 83 cents and others sent other minor sums up to one $10 donation. Not near enough money or materials has been contributed to make the pool a reality, but the boys believe in the old adage.

In the meanwhile, L. S. Clarke, recreation director; H. C. Strayhorn, his assistant, and Earl Peterson, counsellor, have been directing the work of the youngsters and lending a hand on the bigger stones.

They too believe that the old adage will come true.

Until this year, the orphans, ranging from 8 to 15 years, would go occasionally to the public pool in Yonkers. But such a trip meant carfare, and nickels are scarce with the youthful residents there. Some of the youngsters have even tried to contribute their scanty nickels to the local pool project. Officials hope however that the public will rally to the project and see that the enthusiastic youngster get a break.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 13, 1940

Aldermen Accept Offer by Gray To Contribute Sponsor's Fund For Negro Playground Project

Board Authorizes Step Looking Toward Filing Application With WPA; Three Recreation Areas Planned for Colored People

The board of city aldermen, meeting in special session yesterday afternoon, unanimously accepted the offer extended by James A. Gray to contribute $20,000 as the sponsor's share on a WPA project for the development of Negro playgrounds and recreational facilities in Winston-Salem.

Immediately upon acceptance of the offer made earlier this week, the board adopted a resolution authorizing the drawing up of the project to be submitted to WPA authorities.

With $20,000 as the sponsor's share, the WPA grant, if approved, would run around $35,000 to $40,000, making a total of approximately $60,000 available for the project.

Proposed plans include the development of three separate areas. One would be in Southside, just south of Salem Creek between Liberia and Alder streets, a second in the vicinity of the school grounds of Fourteenth Street Park, and the third on North Cherry street at Old Town road.

The special meeting was held primarily for acting on the preliminary phases of the proposal, so that the project might be instituted as quickly as possible.

The board took under consideration an offer made by the Gulf Oil service station at West First street and Hawthorne Road to make a property exchange with the city, whereby the service station would give a strip along West First for street widening purposes in trade for a city-owned lot on Hawthorne Road just north of the service station and for another section adjoining the city park property off of West First. Such an exchange would make the city park property boundary a straight line from Hawthorne Road to Peters Creek. The offer included the rezoning the property to be received in the trade by the service station from residential to local business property. The proposal was referred to the city zoning board for preliminary action.

Application of Richard Martin, blind man, for free licenses to sell wine and beer. However the application of Earl Allred for regular license to sell beer at 230 North Main street, was approved.

The board agreed to accept a strip for street widening purposes and a cash balance of $140.69 in payment of a paving assessment against property on Waughtown street, owned by J. Ben Martin and wife. An extension of payments of assessments against the property of A. E. Fowler was granted.

Contracts for the city's coal needs were awarded three local dealers. The Minnis Coal Company was given the contract for supplying City Memorial and Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial hospitals at a price of $5.10 per ton delivered. The Crystal Ice and Coal Company got the contract for supplying the city schools at a price of $5.21 delivered or $4.59 on the track. The Wall Coal Company received the contract for supplying the other city buildings at a price of $5.29 per ton, delivered, or $4.59 on the track.

The board agreed to accept a cash payment of $1,242.82 for assessments of $1,466.55 against property owned by the Greek Orthodox community at Wachovia and Broad streets.

In another adjustment, the city will receive a cash payment of $450 in settlement of assessments amounting to $513.50 against property owned by the Realty Bond Company.

Because of faulty titles, the board agreed to refund the sum of $181.40 received as down payment on property bid in by A. Howell.

Sale of city-owned properties on Knollwood, Middleton and Magnolia streets and Horace Mann avenue. The board also confirmed sales of lots at Eighteenth street and Dunleith avenue, to L. C. and Willie S. Morse for $250; on Greenbrier, near Robin Hood Road, to C. W. Rollins and wife, $1,155; on the northeast corner of Hawthorne and Virginia Roads, to Miss Eva Wall, $1,430; easements to the Duke Power Company through the Winston-Salem water works and Central Park School property for power lines, $1,168, and property on the northeast corner of Waughtown and Marble streets and along both sides of Sprague street, between Brindle and Leight streets, $1,600.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 11, 1940

Playgrounds, Recreational Areas Planned For Negroes

Program Contemplates Over $55,000 for Facilities

Through the generosity of James A. Gray, a sponsor's fund of approximately $20,000 has been made available and application for WPA participation in an amount of $35,000 to $40,000 is to be applied for in the development of recreational areas, picnic and playgrounds for Negro citizens of Winston-Salem.

Mayor J. R. Fain announced yesterday that Gray had expressed the desire to make a gift which would be of benefit to the colored people of the community and wished the gift to be of the widest possible service to the greatest number of colored citizens.

Fain stated that the gift was offered subject to the city's being co-sponsor of the development and that a WPA grant could be obtained for the development of the playground and recreational areas. The board of aldermen will immediately consider the filing of an application with the WPA for their approval of this project.

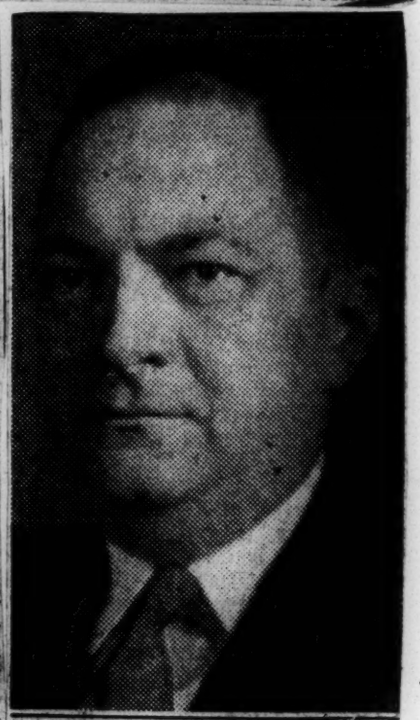
Separate Areas Proposed

Several plans have been discussed as to the most adaptable project which could be developed to serve the greatest number of people. It is generally believed that this gift could serve a greater number of people by developing several separate recreational areas. The plans contemplate three separate playgrounds and recreational areas for colored citizens; one unit will be located in Southside in an area of land owned by the city and bounded by Liberia and Alder streets, just south of Salem Creek. This development would serve the people living in that area and what is known as Columbia Heights and Happy Hill. A second area will be developed around the school grounds at the Fourteenth Street Park on the east boundary of the school grounds adjacent to the present swimming pool, and a third development will be made on North Cherry street at the intersection of the Old Town Road around the school grounds to serve the northeast, known as the Kimberly Park section.

Clubhouses Planned

Community recreational clubhouses will be constructed on two of these areas, with provisions for a small clubroom, reading room, indoor games, and instruction through various programs which may be carried on. The club houses will contain showers and lavatories for both boys and girls, men and women. In all three of the areas will be developed playgrounds with space for softball, baseball, tennis, horseshoe pitching, roller skating and convenient pavilion for picnic area.

Mayor Fain made the following statement: "I feel that all of the colored citizens of our city will be most appreciative of this fine gift offered by Mr. Gray. I believe it will be beneficial and constructive to our large population of colored citizens. It is through the genuine interest and the spirit of co-operation of our leading citizens that these things are made possible for our people. I am grateful to Mr. Gray for his gift and his interest in this work."



SPONSOR — James A. Gray, above, has made approximately $20,000 available as sponsor's funds for a proposed WPA project to provide playgrounds and recreational areas for Negroes of Winston-Salem.

Kinston, N. C., Free Pre
August 22, 1940

Recreation Center for Negro Catholics

Father David, Franciscan friar, today said work had been started on a recreation center for Negroes here to be maintained by his order, which has American headquarters in New York State. Several acres in the eastern end of the city were acquired for the center some weeks ago. A church, of Our Lady of the Atonement, will be built on the ground. Plans for the small edifice are being prepared, the friar said.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
August 13, 1940

roes to Give eant Tonight

axing the 1940 summer re- n program, the negro divi- of the local recreation com- on will stage its annual anni- ry pageant at the Nocho pool outdoor theater tonight at 8:30 o'clock, it was announced today by the Greensboro Recreation department. The gala event, which will be under the direction of J. S. Leary and A. H. Peeler and Fannie S. Sizemore, negro playground supervisors, will present six episodes of colorful pageantry, showing the history of recreation through the ages.

The evening's performance will feature primitive caveman's scenes and crafts of the stone age, story telling of the Saxons, African tribal scene and dancing; American Indian Dances and crafts, and Greek athletics and arts. Especially colorful will be the Persian and Russian dances, water clowns, fencing, sword play and jousts of medieval times, and the Virginia Reel.

The pageant will also feature the community choir directed by Edward Lindsay in the singing of "O Susannah" and "God Bless America." Depicting modern recreation, the finals scenes will show jitterbugs and rhythm kings in action, featuring the Nocho playground toy band, modern swimming sports, and playground dramatics and games.

Mooresville, N. C. Enterprise
August 22, 1940

Fine Job Being Done Colored Recreation C

For a city to be considered anced, it must have a workable tion program. Nothing tends t late a person more than a we ned and efficiently directed of recreation. In these shorter working hours, the people must have some way of spending their leisure time.

There is a tremendous supply of energy that is stored up by young people as well as older people that must be used in some wholesome plan of recreation. A workable staff that considers the needs of each particular group can expect to receive the best results.

The Colored Community Center is developing a rounded program under the well-qualified recreation supervisor, Miss Picklesimon, and members of the Civic League. Miss Picklesimon and her staff have done an excellent job in building the recreaton program, among Negroes of our city. They deserve the congratulations of the citizens.

There are few sections that offer opportunity for year round living out of doors or recreational advantages, the Colored Civic League is always ready to put forth its efforts in promoting any project of recreational value.

Naurice F. Woods, Principal
Mooresville Colored School.

Smithfield, N. C. Herald
September 13, 1940

The Letter Box

Commends Negro Recreation Center

To the Editor:

The summer soft ball games have been very enjoyable and I hate very much to see the time come when the boys must stop playing ball. The soft ball games have been under the supervision of Willie A. Stevens and Leonard R. Sanders, two local WPA recreation leaders.

The WPA program is doing a great work for the Negroes in our community. There are five able recreation leaders in Smithfield and it means so much to the mothers who must go about their daily duties. The soft ball games have helped to keep the feet of our boys in the right path. I really believe that we have had fewer boys in the local courts since the leisure time program has been in operation than ever before, thanks to WPA and the Smithfield recreation council.

I was in the recreation center recently and found about 100 boys and girls enjoying themselves. It would be a good thing if others would make daily or weekly visits to the recreation center in Belmont.

MRS. E. RAIFORD

Greensboro, N. C., Record
June 28, 1940

Two Negro Boys Are to Attend Aquatic School

R. D. Douglas, Jr., chairman of life saving of the Greensboro Red Cross chapter, announced Friday that scholarships have been awarded to two Greensboro negro youths, Phillip Dunbar Lee and Robert Cooke, of the Windsor Community center staff, to enable them to attend the Red Cross aquatic school at Durham.

For the second successive year the American Red Cross is conducting a national aquatic school for negroes at Durham through the courtesy and co-operation of the North Carolina College for Negroes and the recreation commission of the city of Durham.

The school will open June 30 and close July 10.

Under the direction of a faculty of the Red Cross national headquarters staff, the men and women students will receive expert individual instruction which will equip them to serve as leaders and instructors in first aid and life saving.

Courses of instruction are offered in swimming, diving, recreational swimming, water games and pageantry, canoeing, boating, paddle-board handling, first aid, life saving and water safety.

The Greensboro chapter sent two representatives to the school last year and they have carried on an active swimming and life saving program at Windsor Community center. These two are H. K. Parker and W. D. Thomas.

Mr. Douglas announced that a third Greensboro negro, Waimon Herring, also will attend the Durham school this year. He will meet his own expenses while there, however.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
November 14, 1940

Aldermen Will Approve Final Details For Negro Recreational Areas Friday

Final details incident to the establishment of three new recreational areas for Negroes— a project which was approved by the WPA after James A. Gray, industrial and civic leader, offered to provide the sponsor's fund of $20,000—are expected to be completed at the regular meeting of the Winston-Salem board of aldermen here Friday night.

Actual work on the projected parks will probably get under way early next month, The Journal learned from a reliable source.

One of the major hitches in the plans—the possibility that an increase in building and labor costs since the project was first taken up several months ago might necessitate additional funds—has been eliminated by Gray's offer to increase the sponsor's fund by 10 per cent. if such a step should actually become necessary.

Two of the park areas are to be established on city-owned tracts, located in the Happy Hill section, and at the intersection of Fourteenth street and Cameron avenue.

The third park area will be located in a tract of land located at the intersection of Cherry street with the Old Town road. Deed to this tract has been accepted by the city from A. N. Butner, donor of the property.

The parks, when completed, will provide recreation areas and facilities for several Negro population sections of the city which had previous had no easily-available centers of the sort.

Asheville N. C. Citizen
January 24, 1940

GYM TO SERVE AS PLAYHOUSE FOR NEGRO CHILDREN

Recreation Program Is Under Way At Hill Street School

The new Hill street school gymnasium will serve as a playhouse for negro children of the community, Allen Lynch, recently named teacher and athletic director at the school, said yesterday.

Such facilities for supervised play are sadly lacking in the negro grade schools of the city, he said.

Through the cooperation of Norman Watts, director of the negro recreation league here, a varied program of activity is under way. Children from the other negro grade schools of the city will be brought to the gymnasium on successive days.

Prof. J. H. Michael, principal of the school and largely instrumental in having the NYA cooperate in constructing the gymnasium, has offered use of the building because of a realization of the need for cooperative community planning for public groups and agencies.

Those behind the program hope it will be an important factor in greatly reducing juvenile delinquency among negro children.

Professor Miachel has urged parents to encourage their children to use the gymnasium and already a large number are attending.

India Forney, WPA director of negro girls' and women's activities, will have charge of the girls, and Allen Lynch, of the boys. Activities begin daily at 3 p. m. and continue until 6 p. m. Many special events are also planned.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
June 23, 1940

NEGRO RECREATION INSTITUTE TO START IN CITY TOMORROW

J. W. Davidson Will Have Charge Of School In Auditorium At N. C. C. N.

Beginning Monday afternoon at the Avery Auditorium of the North Carolina College for Negroes the Negro Recreation Institute will continue through Friday, June 28.

This institute is being held for the benefit of all candidates who wish to apply for positions on the playgrounds for the Summer months. An examination will be held Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock to cover the courses of instruction given during the week. Those appointed will come from the group taking the institute work and making successful grades on the examination.

J. W. Davidson will be in charge of the institute and has announced the following program for the week:

Monday

3:00—Registration.

3:30—First Aid Problems on a Playground, Edith Steel, superintendent of nurses, Lincoln Hospital.

4:00—The Playground System of the City of Durham, J. W. Davidson.

Tuesday

3:00—Clay Modeling and Handicraft, Evelyn W. Kennedy.

4:00—Picture Mounting, E. M. Dunlap.

5:00—Handicraft Problems, Ethel R. Hubbard.

Wednesday

3:00 — Playground Games and Clubs, Loris Shaw.

3:45—Playground Softball Problems, E. W. Midgette.

4:30—Playground Musical Organizations, Elizabeth Kennedy and Ethel R. Hubbard.

5:15—Hiking and Nature Study, William Edmundson.

Thursday

3:00—Tennis, Badminton, Paddle Tennis, E. Harrington.

4:00—Volley ball and demonstrations of similar games, J. H. Malloy.

5:00—Essential Qualities of a Recreation Leader, J. L. Morehead, chairman, recreation commission.

7:30—Picnic.

Friday

4:00—Examination.

Greensboro, N. C., News
May 26, 1940

Negro Recreation Department In City Shows Steady Growth

Interest of Thousands of Members of Race In Projects Results In Increases In Staff and Facilities.

The development of public recreation in Greensboro had been rapid and progressive over a period of the last six years, according to a report by the negro division of the local recreation commission. The program of public recreation for negroes was begun several years ago before the city organized the present recreation commission, headed by Herbert S. Falk, and directed by Daniel R. Neal. The guidance of the program in the early days was given by the negro advisory recreation committee.

This year the recreation committee appointed Martha Sebastian and Geneva Collins as new women members, to represent the women of the negro community, under the sponsorship of this advisory committee a part-time recreation program was conducted.

Supervising the program in the early days was A. H. Peeler, hard-working pioneer in the playground field, a part-time indoor program at negro public school buildings and a full-time outdoor play program for the summer months was ably operated under his direction. The part-time recreation program was conducted at the Jonesboro, Washington Street and Jacksonville public schools. The activities included in the program included community chorus, dancing, handicraft, social clubs, basketball, volley ball, tennis, horseshoe, pageants, athletic tournaments, pet shows, recreation institutes and conferences, sports institutes and staff meetings. Other early pioneer leaders were Fannie S. Sizemore, J. S. Leary and a host of volunteer leaders.

Windsor Center.

With the opening of the new swimming pool by Mayor Roger Harrison in August, 1937, a full-time indoor, year-round play program for negroes was made possible, along with the institution of public bathing and swimming for a first season of 24 days. The full-time indoor program was begun in November, 1937, under the direction of H. K. Parker, newly appointed director of the negro recreation division. The program was begun with the employment of a full-time negro director, assisted by a supervisor of girls' and women's activities, and part-time leaders in music, dramatics and handicraft, which provided a broad program of recreation activities for children and adults. An enthusiastic response among negro citizens to the new indoor program resulted in a total attendance of 61,231 for nine months. A total of 1,271 members frequented the center last year, of which 593 were adults and 678 children, with 252 girls under 16, 452 boys, 213 women and 380 men.

One of the unusual features of the negro play program were the hospital recreation activities conducted by players for the patients and nurses at the L. Richardson Memorial hospital. Bedside activities included checkers, bingo, story telling, music, reading, letter writing and handicraft.

Unified Program.

Because of an excellent staff, one of the finest negro playground programs was held in 1938 at the three outdoor centers at J. C. Price, Nocho park and Cotton-Newby playgrounds. The playground activities were supervised by A. H. Peeler, assisted by the three playground directors, J. S. Leary, Vance Chavis and Arthur Headen, with Catherine McCollough, supervisor of creative arts, and Eugene Levette, athletic director. A varied program of tennis tournament, doll shows, bike races, dramatic tournament, softball and volley ball leagues, amateur hours, nature pageants and parties was conducted by the summer staff, resulting a total attendance of 64,736 children and adults. The Nocho park swimming pool, headed by McHenry Herman, head life guard, had a total attendance of 28,251 for the water season for activities such as water pageants, inter-city playground and statewide swimming meets. Red Cross first aid, life saving and swimming instruction and water games.

The picnic areas at Nocho park were used by 2,750 people from Greensboro and many nearby towns. The negro recreation attendance for the year reached a high of 147,018.

Indoor Activities.

With the apointment of full-time women's and men's activities directors, Fannie S. Sizemore and Mr. Watts the Windsor center opened in 19[illegible] for indoor activities.

Through the courtesy of the city public school system, in February, 1939, three city schools, Terra Cotta, Jonesboro and J. C. Price, were opened two nights a week for evening adult recreation, supervised by Arthur Headen, J. A. Streator and C. C. Miller. With the closing of the federal art project at the Carnegie negro library, the negro recreation department opened a full-time handicraft center, under the supervision of W. A. Hooker. Three roller skating areas were also operated for negro children at the World War Memorial stadium, an attendance of 55,345 for the present date, with a total of 1,552 for September; 9,113 for October; 12,214 in November; a December attendance of 16,373, and January, 16,088.

The evolution of the summer recreation program for negroes is an interesting one. From meager beginnings the program has grown large enough to divide it into three parts—playgrounds, athletics and swimming.

The summer of 1939 marked another milestone in the history of recreation for negroes in Greensboro. Despite limited staff and facilities, handicaps and misunderstandings, the program has gone forward. The foundation of municipal athletics for negroes was established to work along with the well-founded playground program. Swimming is still a problem. The economic factor, together with slow education of the public to swimming have played a part in the pool problem. The staff however, has studied the problem carefully, and another year should show an improved acceptance of the swimming program.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
June 26, 1940

Play Organized At Negro Parks

Four Local Playgrounds Providing Recreation

The negro playgrounds of the city, under the direction of the negro division of the recreation commission, began a second week of playground activities Monday with what promises to be the best organized and co-ordinated program of any previous summer. This co-ordination includes a closely-interwoven program which is made up of Cotton-Newby Price, Nocho park and Jonesboro playgrounds, the swimming pool staff and the permanent athletic staff.

Last week the summer program provided entertainment for 11,055 children and adults on the four playgrounds, while 814 children and adults visited Dudley, Washington street, Nocho, Price, A. and T. college and Jonesboro softball diamonds last week to see the National and American softball leagues play, and approximately 400 children and adults sought relief from the withering sun at the Nocho pool. Sunday saw an almost record crowd of 221 swimmers at the pool.

Open Last Week.

Thursday of last week saw the official opening of Nocho, Jonesboro, Cotton-Newby and Price playgrounds. Each playground presented a program and served refreshments. The main features of the opening week were a smoker held for the men's recreation club last Monday night and a woman's softball game between Price and Nocho playgrounds.

The contrast between this summer's program and last year's is the stress on club organization. At the present time there are 40 organized clubs at Nocho, Cotton-Newby, Jonesboro and Price playgrounds. Clubs include handicraft, camera, choral group, softball teams, baseball teams, dramatic, kiddies, nature, women's swim, men's recreation, story hour, folk dancing, sewing, art and craft and many other groups.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
June 23, 1940

NATIONAL AQUATIC SCHOOL IS PLANNED HERE FOR JUNE 30

Red Cross Leaders Will Have Charge Of Annual Institute

For Negroes

Announcements have been made of the opening of the second annual National Aquatic School for Negroes at the North Carolina College for Negroes June 30. The school will continue through July 10.

This school is sponsored by the American National Red Cross of Washington. Those attending the aquatic school will share the full benefit of the 18 years experience of the Red Cross in first aid, life saving and accident prevention.

First year students will enroll in the basic courses for broad training and practice in the fundamentals of the listed subjects. The motto of the school is "Learn By Doing." Second year students will be given advanced training in the same subjects.

Emphasis will be given to swimming and small craft science. This will include the handling of canoes and rowboats in the service of rescue work and other safety technique. All pupils will be instructed in the art of teaching these subjects to others.

During the school a pageant will be written and executed on the waters used at the local college for a demonstration to the public of the art in water safety.

Numbers of lectures will be delivered by specialists on the various subjects connected with the aquatic school. These instructions will be applicable to beaches, Summer camps and other recreational resorts.

On the faculty will be found physicians and dieticians who will care for the health of the students during the aquatic school period. All of these will be approved by the National Red Cross.

Reasonable rates have been arranged for the entire session. A charge of $15 is to be paid upon the day of arrival. This fee covers board and lodging during the entire period of the school, and pays all fees and expenses involved in the session of work. The reasonableness of this fee is due to the cooperation of Dr. James E. Shepard, president of the North Carolina College for Negroes.

All applications must be signed by the chapter of the Red Cross, and should be forwarded to the Director at National Headquarters of the American Red Cross at Washington.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 11, 1940

NEGRO LEAGUE ASKS COUNCIL TO OPEN POOL

Pleads For Fair Share Of Park Commission's Funds.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Neglected Fairview Park Facilities Condemned By State Board Of Health.

Representatives of the Charlotte Negro Citizens league appeared before the city council yesterday and requested immediate improvements at the Fairview Park swimming pool, recently condemned, and urged a more equitable method of distributing funds of the Park and Recreation commission.

Several speakers contended that the Negro swimming pool was condemned by the State Health department because the Park and Recreation commission had neglected to keep the property in proper condition.

Furthermore, it was stated, Negroes comprise about one third of the city's population and yet there are practically no recreational facilities afforded them. Therefore the council was asked to do what it could to bring about a more even distribution of funds handled by the commissioners.

Through a joint proposal of Councilman John Wilkinson, H. H. Baxter and C. S. Britt the council appointed a committee, composed of the three men, to confer immediately with members of the Park and Recreation commission to determine what can be done to open the Fairview pool this summer.

TO CALL IN LEAGUE.

Later a committee from the Charlotte Negro Citizens League will be called into the discussions, was announced.

One of the Negro speakers was Dr. J. Cross. He contended that a mere population of more than 100,000 people will "not make a great city." There are other things, other responsibilities of the city fathers that enter into the picture. During the time the Negro swimming pool was open, he said, there was a sharp decline in crime among the Negro youths of Charlotte.

R. L. Anderson, of Johnson C. Smith university read a long statement in which it was charged that condemnation of the pool was brought about through the neglect of the Park and Recreation commission in keeping the property in proper condition.

Inadequate distribution of funds in the hands of the commission was a prime factor in closing of the pool. Apparently, he said, money was spent elsewhere and not enough was left to even maintain the Fairview property.

"The Negro pool is condemned," Anderson said, "as a hundred thousand dollar pool is opened for the white group."

Paul Richardson said there were holes in the roof of the dressing quarters and that when it rained "the water poured in." As a result the floors were constantly damp and insanitary.

Mayor Douglas explained that the park board has only about $18,000 a year to maintain all property under its supervision.

Councilman Baxter and Wilkinson insisted, however, that something should be done for the Negroes and urged the appointment of a committee to "work this thing out."

Mayor Douglas took the position that the large delegation should have appeared before the Park and Recreation commission rather than the council since operation of parks is exclusively in the hands of the commission as the result of a Legislative act. However, he had no objection to the appointment of the committee.

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
August 15, 1940

Negroes Seek Site For Permanent Unit

(By RECREATION OFFICIAL)

Our negro citizens are awakening to the importance of recreation in the development of a community. They recently held a mass meeting to inform the people of recreation, and to initiate a campaign for the purpose of purchasing a permanent site for their own playground. This is a worthy example set in our midst.

The recreation project for Richmond Hill was started in the spring of 1937, with only one leader and with only the school ground as a playground.

A negro council of interested citizens was organized at the time, with the assistance of L. G. Blackus of the State W. P. A. office. In spite of its financial handicap, this council has provided supplies to continue the program for their community, bought playground equipment, beautified the Christian church lot for a community center, conducted a number of public meetings in the interest of recreation, and has now set up the objective of permanent property. Such a valiant enveador will surely be rewarded in a better community for their people.

Charlotte, N. C., News
July 11, 1940

Negroes Ask That Pool Be Re-Opened

Delegation Appears Before City Council

Plea for the re-opening of the swimming pool in Fairview Negro Park and more equitable distribution of funds for Negro recreational facilities was made before the City Council yesterday afternoon by a large delegation from the Negro Citizens League.

Spokesmen claimed that the reason the State Board of Health condemned and closed the pool was that the Park and Recreation Commission had not properly maintained conditions surrounding it.

It was claimed that the roof of the old water filter plant, which is used as a bathhouse, is in bad condition and as a result, rains pour in, causing the interior to be damp and unsanitary.

APPOINTS COMMITTEE

The Council agreed to appoint a committee to confer with the Park and Recreation Commission to see what can be done immediately to reopen the pool. On this committee Mayor Douglas named Councilmen John L. Wilkinson, for a long time a member of the Park Board, H. H. Baxter, and C. S. Britt.

Dr. W. H. Stinson, president of the Negro Citizens League, headed the delegation and introduced the speakers, including Dr. R. L. Anderson, professor of biology at Johnson C. Smith University, Dr. J. Nathaniel Tross, minister and well-known Negro leader, Paul Richardson, a member of the Negro Advisory Recreation Committee, and A. E. Spears, chairman of this committee.

EXPLAIN POSITION

Speakers claimed that the Negroes constitute one-third of the city's population and deserve better treatment in the distribution of the recreation funds. It was also claimed that the Fairview pool actually took in more money than was necessary for its operation but the Park Board's accounting that assigns this park part of the general overhead caused the pool to show a deficit.

Mayor Douglas told the delegation that it should go to the Park and Recreation Commission as under the law it is solely responsible for the conduct of the park system. The Negroes replied that they had conferred with the members of the Park Board but had not been given any hope for help.

RED CROSS TRAINS COLORED LIFE SAVER

RALEIGH, N.C., July 11—(ANP)—Clarence Lightner, life saver, was selected by the Wake County Chapter of the American Red Cross last week to attend the National Aquatic School for Negroes, now in progress in Durham. Under the direction of a faculty of the Red Cross National Headquarters staff, Lightner will receive expert instruction in First Aid, Life Saving, Water Safety and related aquatic subjects designed to equip him for service as a leader and instructor in this field of Red Cross work.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
July 11, 1940

DR. FEW ADDRESSES AQUATIC EXERCISES

Duke University President Delivers Graduation Speech At Negro School

In his address to the graduating class of the second annual national aquatic school held at the North Carolina College for Negroes, Dr. W. P. Few, president of Duke University declared: "It is a rather striking circumstance that I who cannot swim a lick should come to speak to you."

Other speakers on the program were Dr. James E. Shepard, president of the North Carolina College for Negroes and Raymond S. Eaton of the American Red Cross.

Dr. Few spoke in part: "I could not over estimate the sadness of the world into which you are to live your lives. You need not expect an easy life.

"Hitler is not to be compared with Napoleon and his wars or the wars of the Caesars nor the World War. This is the first war that I know to have been fought against intelligence. We ought to realize the desperate conditions we are facing. We need a spiritual preparation. There is a debt of service to be paid to the country and to society as a whole.

"It is good for us to have these problems. It has been too easy for us during the past 20 years. If you are rightly adjusted to men and things you will understand the realities of life.

"We must be as one people, and those who won't be that way will have to be put somewhere so they cannot do much harm.

"I would set on fire the youth of our country to get them out of this state of neutrality.

"I can't point to you or any other group an easy road. America ought now to become a real leader of the world in the preservation of the civilization of the world."

There were 67 pupils registered in the aquatic school from New England, New York, Washington, D. C., the deep South and as far west as Kansas, including 27 states. Dr. James E. Shepard delivered the certificates of merit and gave a brief address in which he expressed his appreciation for the type of character exemplified by the aquatic school pupils while on the college campus. He held out to the graduates the fact that a reward would come to those who have dedicated themselves to the cause of humanity. In conclusion Dr. Shepard pointed out the fact that this representative group from many parts of the country showed a genuine fushion of democracy.

Raymond Eaton of the American Red Cross expressed his appreciation for the cooperation of C. R. Wood, J. L. Morehead and the Recreation Commission as well as that of the North Carolina College for Negroes.

Charlotte, N. C., News
August 6, 1940

Approval Expected

Park Board Meets On Matter Tonight

A program for development of facilities at Fairview Negro Park, including the remedying of defects of the swimming pool so that it can be re-opened is scheduled to be approved at a meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission at the City Hall tonight.

Members of the committee from the City Council, consisting of Councilmen John L. Wilkinson, H. H. Baxter and Dr. C. S. Britt, are expected to meet with the Park Board along with a committee of Negro citizens.

Marvin Ray, recreation superintendent, and Jack Moore, of the Park Board, held a preliminary conference with the Negro committee last night and tentatively agreed to a proposal that will be submitted to the Park Commission and Council committee tonight.

PROPOSAL

Under this proposal, it is suggested that parts of the present building at the Park, which was formerly used as the City Water Department filter plant, be torn down and material salvaged for construction of a smaller and more usable bathhouse. Then, too, the size of the pool, which is one of the old settling basins of the filter plant, will be cut and the expense of filling the million-gallon pool reduced.

The Negroes have contended strongly for a gymnasium and an auditorium that can be used for dances and other social events, and it has been proposed that one section of the filter plant, 50 by 103 feet in size, be renovated for this purpose.

A new roof would have to be built, windows installed, and a floor put in. But it was believed that this would then be highly acceptable as an auditorium.

$2,500 AVAILABLE

The Park Board has allocated $2,500 for capital outlay at Fairview Park this year and this is all the money that is now available for improvements there. Suggestion has been made that application be filed with the WPA for a project which could be financed with this $2,500 as a sponsor's contribution and that the full program be carried out, step by step, as finances would permit. This plan was followed in the construction of the municipal swimming pool in Revolution Park.

Several weeks ago, the swimming pool at Fairview Park was condemned by the State Board of Health and it was ordered closed. A few weeks back, a delegation from the Negro Citizen's League appeared before the Council, demanding that something be done to re-open the pool and provide adequate facilities at Fairview. A committee from the Council was appointed and the question has been under consideration at previous meetings. At tonight's session it is expected that formal agreement will be reached on the plan that has been outlined and efforts will be made to obtain WPA approval for the initial phase of the program.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
January 9, 1940

Forestry Commission Designates Two Parks for Negroes

Information has been received at the New York office, 45 Broadway, of the United States Travel Bureau, Department of Interior, that the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry has designated two areas for development as State parks for colored people. One of these adjoins the Greenwood State Park in the western part of the state, and the other is located on the north end of Hunting Island, east of the beautiful town of Beaufort, on the coast.

Announcement that both these parks are under construction is well received and appreciated at the Bureau, particularly, by the Division of Negro Activities, which is under the direction of a capable and energetic member of that race and, who himself, hails from the South Atlantic coastal region, and who recently visited that historic and picturesque country.

The colored population of South Carolina forms a large portion of the whole. In only one other state, Mississippi, in 1920, did it exceed the whites. The section of Hunting Island, being developed for the enjoyment of the colored people, has a frontage on the ocean and will afford opportunities for excellent salt-water bathing. Both the areas are located in choice sections. It is also announced that two other areas, secured from the Resettlement Administration, one near Cehraw and the other near Sumter, in the central part of the state, are being considered to provide additional recreational centers for colored people, which would bring the total up to four including the two mentioned above.

Rock Hill, S. C. Herald
June 11, 1940

PLAYGROUNDS GET GOOD START

Several Thousand Kiddies Take Part In Program 1st Week

Public playgrounds got off to a good start their first week with several thousand taking part in various recreational activities last week.

At Confederate Park 1,333 persons used the swimming pool, 1,000 participated in activities at the pavilion, 1,150 used the playgrounds, and 285 were on the tennis courts.

Highland Park playground drew 400, Arcade 460, Central school 350.

At Friendship colored center there were 575 who attended activities and 400 attended West End playground. At Log Cabin center 200 used the playgrounds and 625 participated in evening activities.

Softball and horseshoe tournaments are expected to interest many at the playgrounds this week. The play will lead to city-wide tournaments.

In addition to playgrounds named Winthrop Training School also has a playground open to the public where activities may be organized.

Miss Sara Touchberry is in charge of the playground work, which is sponsored by the city and the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The WPA is assisting in the program by supplying playground helpers.

Greenville, S. C. News
June 27, 1940

2 Commodious And Well-Equipped Playgrounds Planned For Negroes

For the first time in history, city council and the Park and Tree commission of Greenville have made plans for providing negro children of the city with complete playground facilities.

Included in an application filed this week with the WPA for $75,600 worth of park improvements were plans for conversion of the grounds of two negro schools of the city into large playgrounds with full equipment for organized games and recreation.

Grounds at Sullivan street and Gower street schools will be leveled and lanscaped and on them will be placed softball fields, basketball, tennis and volley ball courts, places for throwing horse shoes and slides, swings, sand boxes and other paraphernalia for the amusement of young and old.

Both playgrounds will be extensive. Sullivan street playground is 300 feet wide at the rear, 350 feet long on one side and 200 feet on the other for a total of 82,500 square feet of play space. Gower street playground is 250 feet wide and 424 feet long for a total of 117,250 square feet of play space.

The playgrounds will be built and equipped at a cost of several thousand dollars and, according to Carter Newman, Jr., director of city parks and playgrounds, will be as commodious and as well-equipped as any now provided for white children.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
July 23, 1940

Pleads For Pool

From T. P., of Greenville, comes the following plea for a swimming pool for negro children of Greenville:

"Dear Mr. Harrison: I would like to have you run these few lines in your Caught on the Wing column if you can do so. I think it is a wonderful thing that the city is going to build an amusement park for the negro children of Greenville, which is needed so much.

"The most beneficial thing would be a swimming pool so the little ones can take a dip without going in that nasty Reedy river. There would be an older person around to look after them and to keep the smaller children from going out too far. Reedy river is not healthy as refuse from the mills, I have been told, is poured into the stream. I hope some good natured person will read this little article and try to see it, as I am interested in the welfare of the negro children of Greenville. I notice that only July 17th a negro boy drowned in Reedy river. Just think, just put yourself in the place of the poor negro mother. How badly she must feel. Maybe this could have been avoided if we had a swimming pool for negro children of Greenville. What about it?"

I am glad to give the above letter space in this column. Maybe it will stimulate thought among the civic leaders of Greenville.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 21, 1940

Exhibition is Planned in Negro Pool

A swimming and diving exhibition will be held at the negro swimming pool Wednesday afternoon. There will be no admission charge.

A demonstration of elementary forms of rescue will be given by a group of boys trained by Thomas Broadnax, American Red Cross water safety instructor. The group also will demonstrate various swimming strokes, the tired swimmer's carry and the cross chest carry.

As a special feature Broadnax will endeavor to teach a non-swimmer how to swim in ten minutes.

There also will be swimming races, fancy and clown diving.

The program will wind up with a special swimming race between "Yuheda" and a picked field of the best swimmers at the pool.

Dillon, S C., Herald
December 12, 1940

Colored Folks Thank Mayor and Council for Community Playground

The following public acknowledgement of appreciation for the playground that has been provided for the colored folks of Latta by Mayor Finklea and city council has been sent to The Herald:

Hon. Mayor Tracy Finklea, and Members of the City Council, Latta, South Carolina.

Dear Sirs:

We, the officers and members of Latta Community T. B. Health Club, feel very grateful and indebted to you for the fine interest and substantial consideration you have shown and given to us in the purchasing of a playground for our people.

This lovely and useful Christmas gift (playground) presented to us and our unborn generations for health, recreation and amusement has already begun to satisfy in letter and spirit, that inborn mood for fun and enjoyment.

We again, thrice, in behalf of our negro group in Latta and throughout Dillon county, express our sincere thanks and stable appreciation to you.

Very respectfully,
P. M. GIBBS,
Chr. Co. TB Health Com.
CAROLINE NOWLING,
Vice Pres. Com. Club.
DOROTHY BETHEA,
Secretary.
ALICE WHITE,
Treasurer.
J. C. GIBBES,
Publicity Agent.

Greenville, S. C. News
July 24, 1940

Council Considering Pool For Negro Children Here

Committee Appointed By Mayor To Explore The Situation

Steps to explore the possibility of constructing a municipal swimming pool for negroes similar to the one for white persons in Cleveland park were taken by city council last night at its regular meeting in City hall.

Mayor C. Fred McCullough named a special committee composed of Aldermen J. Kenneth Cass, R. Henry Ligon and J. Frank Welborn to investigate conditions and seek to determine if the construtcion of such a pool may be undertaken in the future.

The matter was brought before council by Mr. Cass, who asked for an expression of opinion from other members of council. Mr. Ligon, after expressing approval of the proposal, moved that the mayor appoint the special committee.

PLAN DISCUSSED

Mayor McCullough pointed out that a proposal for establishment of a pool for negroes had been discussed on the same basis as that by which the white pool was built—through the sale of revenue bonds—but that no offers to buy such bonds had been received.

Council also took the following action on the following matters:

Gave the garbage department permission to add another worker at $10.50 a week.

Gave Mayor McCullough authority to instruct Fire Chief Frank E. Donnald as to homes and buildings outside the city to which fire trucks could go in case of fire and gave the chief authority to answer calls to fires at churches and schools outside the city at no charge. The arrangement is temporary.

Approved the spending of $50 to rearrange railings at the food stamp office so as to segregate whites and negroes.

Referred to the police committee complaints against the operation at night of a business establishment at Buncombe and Lloyd streets.

Appropriated $25 a month for the establishment of a NYA training center for negro girls.

PLACE STREET LIGHT

Approved the placing of a street light on Lloyd street.

Received applications for street improvements on Whitmire, Broad, Nichols, Glenn, Oscar, Meadow, Nona, Thruston, Ridgeland, Haynie, Ware and Martin streets.

Accepted a deed to a 4.5-foot strip 202 feet long on Norwood place for the establishment of a sidewalk.

Approved the purchase of 15 raincoats for the police department from Belk-Simpson company on a low bid of $69.75.

Approved the purchase of a hose for the street flusher at a cost of $80.

Sold a lot in the Meadow off South Hudson street to Walter Goldsmith for $34.23.

Authorized the purchase of a car of gasoline from the Standard Oil company on a low bid of 13.29 cents a gallon.

WE NEED PLAYGROUNDS FOR NEGRO CHILDREN

The Booker Washington Terrace and the Allen-Benedict Terrace have displaced two slum sections in Columbia, S.C. offering better housing conditions for our people at low-cost rents. No other projects here mean more to the happiness and welfare of our people.

The next venture is playgrounds for Negro children to offer opportunities for the proper use of vacation periods and physical improvement of the host of children in the streets of the city. This need is urgent. The leaders in our civic organization should continue their efforts until playgrounds are established and properly equipped in the west side, in the south side and in Waverley. The City owes this to the Negro taxpayers of Columbia.

Florence, S. C., Morning News
September 30, 1940

Letter To The Editor

Editor the Morning News—There were many expressions of joy among the Negro citizens of Florence over the article appearing in the Morning News Sept. 26th stating that the Levy Park playground on the extension of Pine street for colored children, would be improved through the cooperation of the city park commission and the W. P. A.

According to the Statement of Mr. McCarthy this project seems to be definite, and we are very grateful and appreciative as this will give our group a place of helpful recreation, social activities and physical education. We already have our Community Center, N.Y.A. Resident Center for girls, and the Crippled Children's Home. These are signs of mutual helpfulness and progressive justice, and should inspire our people to respond freely to the consolidated drive for charities

We must feel thankful to those who are making it possible for us to have this improved playground as it will prove to be a great asset to the health, character building, and happiness of our people.

Rev. A. W. Hill. Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church
Florence, S. C.
Sept 29, 1940.

NEGRO SHELBY FOREST NEARING COMPLETION

Recreation Area To Be Ready By Summer

The 500-acre Shelby County Forest for Negroes, at the Mississippi River end of Mitchell Avenue, will be ready for use early this Summer, Charles C. Stewart, project superintendent, said yesterday.

Improvements will be incomplete, but the park will be usable, he said. It has been entirely fenced with hogproof wire and the approaching road has been improved. The baseball diamond is nearly ready, with bleachers about to be built.

When the weather clears, work will start on a swimming pool, a lodge building, including a large dining hall, and the decorative entrance structures. Plans include picnic areas and two group camps.

The work is being done by 180 negro CCC boys, most of them from Shelby County.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 26, 1940

NEGRO ACTIVITY BEGINS AT STATE PARK ON LAKE

Recreational activities have been started at the Booker T. Washington park and today more than 2,000 Negroes are expected to go to the resort for boat rides, swimming, fishing and other activities. T. L. Kelley, East Ninth street businessman, last week launched and christened his boat there before about 1,000 people.

All day today there will be refreshments and boat rides on the lake provided for the colored people. White persons on boat trips there are invited by Kelley to inspect the Washington dock and be served old-fashioned barbecue on their boats, with "dock service."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 9, 1940

Negro Life Guards Train

Classes for Negroes training as life guards, and first aid, are being conducted at the Lincoln park swimming school, each afternoon.

Elizabeth Gregory, who attended the school in Durham, N. C., last year, is in charge of the instruction work.

PROTEST REMOVAL OF POLICE FROM BEATS, WANT MORE FIREMEN

KNOXVILLE. — (ANP) — At a recent meeting of the city council here, a number of leading colored citizens headed by the Rev. J. Albert Jackson, made a vigorous plea before that body for certain civic improvements in sanitary conditions in general in sections of the city where Negroes reside.

The delegation's spokesman also asked for Negro policemen on beats; Negro firemen at the East Knoxville station; Negro nurses and internes at General hospital; appointment of a Negro on the Knoxville Housing authority; better sanitation in the stockyards vicinity and more recreational facilities, such as parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, etc.

The delegation emphasized their protest to the actions of those in authority in removing colored policemen from their former beats which are now covered by white policemen in scout cars as well as other sections of the city, while the Negro patrolmen are assigned to the patrol wagon which they drive and serve as turnkey at the jail.

City Manager W. W. Mynatt is reported to have said that "No provision has been made for carrying out the plans proposed by the colored delegation, and appropriations for the safety and welfare departments as well as hospitals for the 1940 budget are about the same as last year."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
April 30, 1940

$30,000 IS SOUGHT FOR 2 PARKS HERE

City Group Will Ask Cooper for Funds—Survey Made of Camping Facilities

A group of Chattanoogans will go to Nashville for an audience with Gov. Prentice Cooper within the next two weeks to ask $30,000 for group camping facilities at Harrison Bay State park and Booker T. Washington State park.

J. Ed Hargraves, chairman of a subcommittee of the chamber of commerce recreational committee, which has just completed a survey of the demand in Chattanooga for group camping facilities at the two parks on Chickamauga lake, said at a meeting yesterday members of the group that will wait upon the governor will be selected this week.

Forty Groups Ask Facilities

Although the findings of the survey on demand for the camping facilities have not yet been compiled or summarized, Mr. Hargraves said approximately forty Chattanooga organizations, representing more than 2,500 persons, had asked for group camping facilities at Harrison Bay State park. He said figures would also show a heavy demand among Negroes for group camping facilities at Booker T. Washington park.

The survey will be summarized and presented to the governor when the appropriation is asked.

The committee will ask the state for $20,000 for construction materials at Harrison Bay park and $10,000 for materials for Booker T. Washington park. Mr. Hargraves said the two sums would be used for materials alone and that the civilian conservation corps would furnish the labor. He said $30,000 would supply material for four units at Harrison Bay and two units at Booker T. Washington. Each unit will accommodate more than forty persons at one time.

A. D. Rieger, TVA property manager here, has been assisting the chamber of commerce committee in making the survey. He said group camping has proved successful in other state parks and that such facilities would increase the attractiveness of Harrison Bay and Booker T. Washington parks.

Group camps are composed of several units of six or eight cabins each around an administration building. Units can be used separately or thrown together to accommodate large numbers of people at the same time. A central dining hall is provided in addition to a large swimming pool filled with purified water, a drinking water system, electric lights and boat docks. Fire and police protection are provided by the state.

An administration committee, to be chosen when the camps are completed here, will operate the camps and employ a superintendent and a staff at each park, Mr. Hargraves said. Units will be rented to groups of campers for operation and maintenance expenses.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
July 24, 1940

COLORED FOLK QUICKLY MATCH CASH OF CITY

$300 REQUIRED FOR INSTALLING LIGHTS IN PARK LAID ON CITY MANAGER'S DESK.

No sooner said than done!

Some of the leading colored citizens of Columbia appeared before the City Commission several weeks ago and asked for an appropriation from the city to place park lights in the Parkview athletic field located just outside the city limits on the Iron Bridge road.

At a meeting last week the commissioners voted $1,000 or as much thereof as necessary for the placing of lights in the park, providing the colored people would raise $300 and turn over to the city.

Tuesday morning the committee in charge of the fund walked into the office of City Manager G. W. Shaw and laid $300 in cash on his desk.

The city funds are now available, and Mr. Shaw said this morning that work of leveling the grounds would begin immediately and as soon as completed the Columbia Power System would commence the installation of the park lights.

Robert Williamson, manager of the power system, said that the latest type park lights would be placed in the park and at such an advantage that all kinds of night games can be played.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 31, 1940

TENTH STREET ANNEXES NEGRO SWIMMING MEET

The Tenth street team won the Negro playground swimming meet at the Lincoln park pool yesterday with 20 points. Grove street was second with 13 and Lincoln Park third with 3.

In the junior boys' event, James Arnold, of Grove street, was first; Clayton Thomas, Tenth street, second; Grady Wiley, Tenth street, third. In the midget boys' event, Arthur Jones, Tenth street, was first; Frank Evans, Tenth street, second, and James Price, Lincoln park, third.

Tenth street's relay team won, with Thomas, Webb, Jones and Wilson composing the quarter with the Grove street foursome of McKelvey, Brown, Arnold and Zuber, second.

Tenth street defeated Grove street 10 to 1, in a water polo demonstration match.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 29, 1940

PLAY DAY IS ENJOYED BY 200 NEGRO CHILDREN

Two hundred Negro children of all ages participated yesterday in the annual Negro Community Center Play day, held this year at the Elm Street Community center.

Participants were from the Lincoln, Elm Street and Alton Park Community centers. The program opened with a flag-raising ceremony at 9 o'clock, with activities continuing until 2. Each center competed in the several scheduled events, which included paddle badminton, paddle tennis, bounce ball, dodge ball, cricket ball, volley ball, horseshoes, folk games, the grand march and inter-team softball games. Competition was based on age-group divisions.

The program was arranged and under the direction of J. Ed Hargraves, city director of recreation; Miss Lillian Summers and Clayton Hunter, of the PWA division of recreation. Albert F. Seay, president of the Elm Street advisory council, served as host to the visiting centers.

The activities were supervised by recreation leaders from the WPA recreation staff, being Rosalind Wilson, Gradie Long, Hubert Whitaker and Fred McCrary. They were assisted by Eleanor Freeman and Ethel Wasson, formerly of the staff.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Free Press
August 25, 1940

Negro Youths Model College Hill

Nimble fingers, structural ability and patience were applied by three Negro youths to build this striking model of the College Hill housing project.

The youths who did the work are Omenys Arnold, Calvin Sparks and Roy Ward. They are showing some onlookers how they did it. The work was done at the Grove Street playground, under the direction of Peal Vaughn. The miniature was on exhibit at Lincoln Park.

—Photo by Delmont Wilson.

Memphis Auditorium Named 'Beale Street'

NOV 29 1940

MEMPHIS, (ANP) — A church and park built here in 1936 and named for R. R. (Bob) Church colored Republican leader now in Philadelphia, has had its name changed because the Memphis park commission found that they hadn't been officially named at all.

Henceforth the park and structure at 391 Beale will be called Beale Avenue Park and Beale Avenue auditorium. A park commission spokesman said that the commission felt the recreation center and auditorium should be named for the "most famous of Memphis institutions," Beale street.

MEMPHIS AUDITORIUM AND PARK RENAMED FOR BEALE STREET

Pittsburgh, Pa.

MEMPHIS, Nov. 27—(ANP)—A church and park built here in 1936 and named for R. R. (Bob) Church, colored Republican leader now in Philadelphia, has had its name changed because the Memphis park commission found that they hadn't been officially named at all.

NOV 30 1940

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Crump Stadium Opened To Memphis Negroes

The Plain Dealer
Kansas City, Kan.

MEMPHIS — An announcement was received last week from the Memphis Park Commission that Crump Stadium the city's 25,000 capacity athletic stadium, has now been provided with facilities for colored sports lovers. The stadium has heretofore been operated on a basis of discouraging colored attendance to events presented there.

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The Park Commission's announcement stated that provisions have been made for 600 persons, with separate toilet facilities, ticket office and attendants.

Colored citizens have been using the athletic stadium or playing field especially provided for them at the Booker T. Washington high school. This field has a seating capacity of 5,000.

Colored people were told through newspaper advertisements and via radio that they could begin attending games at Crump Stadium immediately

MEMPHIS AUDITORIUM AND PARK RENAMED FOR BEALE STREET

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MEMPHIS, Nov. 20 (ANP) — A church and park built here in 1936 and named for R. R. (Bob) Church, colored Republican leader now in Philadelphia, has had its name changed because the Memphis park commission found that they hadn't been officially named at all.

Henceforth the park and structure at 391 Beale avenue will be called Beale Avenue Park and Beale Avenue auditorium. A park commission spokesman said that the commission felt the recreation center and auditorium should be named for the "most famous of Memphis institutions", Beale street.

No mention was made of the Church family which, prior to the purchase of the property by the city, operated a private recreation center for Negros for many years. Mr. Church and other members of his family have been away from Memphis for approximately three years now, except for short visits occasionally. Miss Annette Church removed the last remaining tie of the family with the city in which they counted for so much, when she closed the large house they have occupied for years on South Lauderdale Street. All furnishings and accoutrements of the home were removed last week

Negro Park Too Good, Whites Now Want It

FORT WORTH—(ANP) — The statement, "You have to fight all the way," was proven true and probably scored a victory for Negro citizens of this city Wednesday before the city council during the controversy over the use of Greenway park as a Negro recreational center.

Sixty-acre Greenway park is one of the showplaces of the city and was purchased as a park in 1926. Improvements have been made yearly and it has become desirable to some white citizens who attempted to secure the place for their exclusive use.

Arrayed against the white faction in the council chamber were William Coleman, Texas Masonic grand master; Dr. F. Rivers Barnwell, Texas health director for Negroes; Rev. J. W. Washington, secretary of the General Baptist convention; and Mrs. A. B. Carson, white missionary worker. Mrs. Carson told the council that white residents of the community had more than enough recreational facilities in that district and pleaded with the council not to take the park away from Negroes.

The white group wanted the city to give them the park and purchase land in the undesirable Trinity river bottoms for a Negro park.

Councilmen postponed their decision until Tuesday when park board commissioners will express their views. The white faction failed in their efforts to secure the park before the park board on other occasions.

Negroes plan to fight this prejudiced move to the end.

Ft. Worth Negro Park Looks Too Good To Whites

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PORTSMOUTH GROUP WINS CITY FIGHT

City Manager Names Five Playgrounds And Staff Workers

PORTSMOUTH, Va.—City Manager Charles F. Harper of this city has announced the location of five playgrounds for Race children, naming at the same time the Race playground staffs.

The successful fight for the expansion of playground facilities here for Race children was made by the Portsmouth Woman's Council of Clubs. A delegation of Race women attended a City Council session early this years and petitioned the city fathers to improve the meager playground facilities for Race children that already existed, and to establish new outdoor play centers.

City Manager Harper has appointed William E. Waters, teacher and head of athletics in Norcom high school here, as general supervisor of Race playgrounds. He will have under him several playground directors, including an alternate who will assist throughout the city. The appointments are for the summer period.

Race playgrounds have been designated in the various sections of the city, located in most instances on the grounds of the public schools. Play equipment will be provided, and other work done to get the projects ready for the opening of the playgrounds on June 17.

WASHINGTON—The first colored recreational area opened for Negroes under the department of agriculture in the national forest areas began its season on June 15, when the Green Pastures area in the Jefferson National forest down in Virginia, permits swimming under the supervision of qualified life guards. Green Pastures has been developed exclusively for the use of colored people.

Most of these areas have been used by the public for picnicking, and in some instances for camping, since early in May, but the necessity for detailing life guards at the beaches during the summer season limited the use of the water facilities to the warmer periods of the season.

Newport News, Va. Press
December 13, 1940

Dobson Proposes Expansion Of Negro Athletic Program At Shipyard Center

Expansion of the athletic program at the Negro athletic center was proposed at a meeting of representative men last night by Frank M. Dobson, athletic director of the Newport News shipyard, in an effort to develop organization for the "youngsters" and senior members as well of the shipyard.

Speaking before eight representatives of various Negro organizations of the city and Peninsula, Dobson stated that he had made plans to develop two basketball leagues, one for senior members of the shipyard, and another, which would include juniors in high school age.

There was some possibility that the Negro troops of the Boy Scouts of America in a large manner would form the personnel of the junior league, combined with some class teams from Huntington high school. Dr. W. S. Hart, district commissioner of Negro scout troops for this area, and L. F. Palmer, principal of Huntington high, announced that they would cooperate in an effort to bring as many teams as possible in the circuit.

J. A. Williams, custodian of the center, was appointed to contact young men in an effort to line up the league for older men.

Only skeleton plans were drawn up at last night's meeting, but more detailed plans will be decided upon at a meeting to be held at the center, scene of last night's meet, next Thursday night, when a fuller assemblage will be brought together.

Those last night, with affiliation, who attended last night's meeting include:

Alex Purcell, Troop 35, B. S. A., Greenbriar, Hampton; Frank L. Shuford, Hampton institute physical education student; Arnim Lipscomb, young men's basketball club at the center; Edward Aiken, center young men's team; Palmer; Dr. Hart, Clarence Small, B. S. A. troop of St. Paul's A. M. E. church, and Jess Carlen, young men's team at center.